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March 27, 1947

Country: Yugoslavia

Subject: Scientific Order of Battle: Recruiting  
of Scientists and Activities in Connection  
with V-weapons.

SCIENTIFIC ORDER OF BATTLE: YUGOSLAVIA  
RECRUITING OF SCIENTISTS AND ACTIVITIES  
IN CONNECTION WITH V-WEAPONS

1. INTRODUCTORY

[redacted] Yugoslavia, hitherto quite backward in the scientific field, has been showing considerable interest in scientific and technical developments.

2. This trend has been noticeable in two ways: firstly, there is concrete evidence of the recruiting of German scientists to work in the country; secondly, reports and rumours of the erection of firing ramps for rocket weapons have on several occasions referred to alleged sites in the country.

3. EMPLOYMENT OF GERMAN SCIENTISTS

A previous report, discussing the recruiting by the Russians of German scientists in Czechoslovakia, explained how in the immediate post-war days, the Russians endeavoured to recruit most of the scientific staff from the German University and Technical High School in Prague. This step was opposed by the Czech Government at the time, but at a later date (March or April 1946) the majority of the available Germans who had been earmarked by the Russians were allowed to accept academic and other posts in Yugoslavia. At the time, it appeared that this was merely a "face-saving" gesture on the part of the Czechs, and that the Yugoslav authorities were being used as a channel by which scientific workers could be passed to Russia.

4. Further evidence has now come to light, however, which indicates that the Yugoslav government is recruiting German technicians through other channels, for work in Yugoslavia.

5. Considerable emphasis seems to be placed on the recruiting of electrical engineers. Some of the men recruited from Czechoslovakia

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are known to have been set to work with the Central Electricity Administration in Zagreb, and they were told that a large Electrical Institute is to be built in which they will work at a later date. [redacted] a hundred German specialists have been recruited by the Yugoslav Military Mission in Berlin to work on one to four year contracts. They are reported to be working in connection with a five year plan to electrify the country and convert it from an agricultural state.

6. The Yugoslav mission in Berlin is also known to be endeavoring to recruit German Naval technicians - their requirements have been stated to be 40 engineers and naval architects and 100 technicians. The men are offered a contract with the IVRJ (Yugoslav Navy?).

7. It has also been reported that German precision tool makers are to be brought to Yugoslavia to train local specialists for war industries. A report recently received mentioned a "Special Design Bureau" (probably one of the Sonderkonstruktionsbiros), which has been set up at Vlaske Street 69, Zagreb, under the management of one Branko Tuckuric. It is said that the State has appropriated 100,000,000 dinars to be spent on railroads, roads, bridges and factory surveys and design throughout Croatia.

8. Among other technical projects mentioned in recent reports is a large naval-military base at Ploce (location?) where 18 Soviet engineers of different technical branches are alleged to be working day and night. There is also a report on the completion of an airfield at Ruma, N.W. of Belgrade, which will be one of the largest in Yugoslavia.

9. There is no indication at all so far that the recruitment and arrival in Yugoslavia of these scientists has anything to do with reported V-weapon installations. The latter appear to be purely military 'front-line' fortifications with little suggestion of any experimental work about them. Information on the recruited personnel as well as on the V-weapon sites is still rather scrappy and further reports must be seen before any conclusions are drawn.

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#### 10. REPORTED V-WEAPON SITES

[redacted] the Russians are establishing "Underground platforms" for the launching of V-2 rockets along the Istrian and Dalmatian coasts. [redacted] there is mention of four sites, this time for V-1, being built on the Adriatic coast. The position of one of these is given as on the heights of Pola in the Istrian peninsula. Four is given as the number of sites in another report, but these are referred to as V-2 sites.

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11. While on the subject of Pola, the strategic position of which is obvious, mention should be made of another reported site at Valona in Albania, at the other end of the Adriatic. A report in October mentioned Russian activity in the port of Bocche di Cattaro where a large amount of war material was being assembled. This consisted of sea-mines and in particular of flying bombs "Destined for Valona". It is interesting that a report has just been received on a project for a railway system in Albania which would, inter alia, link Valona with the Yugoslav system at Bitolj (monastir) and so connect up eventually with Salonika. A link-up between Tirana and Durazzo and the Yugoslav system further north is also envisaged.

12. Among other locations mentioned in connection with V-2 sites on the Adriatic are Mladini, Dubrovnik, Split and the islands of Passan and Dugi Otok in the Adriatic. Here "square-shaped, concrete pillboxes with sides 2 metres long with mechanical devices" inside are being constructed and are said to be used as V-2 launching sites. This is not a very convincing report, but the locations themselves seem reasonably well-spaced on the Adriatic Coast.

13. Reports received towards the end of last year mentioned St. Vid, north of Ljubljana, where underground platforms for V-2's were said to be ready. A second report of very recent date gives St. Vid as a V-2 base. Many Russian and German civilians are to be seen there and access to the zone is prohibited. [redacted] at the end of September and the beginning of October, 1946, several trainloads of munitions were despatched to Slovenia. They were stored in narrow valleys near Spilodnik, near Kranj, which is also just north of Ljubljana.

14. [redacted] an area adjoining the Bled-Bobini road has been proclaimed a military zone and civilians are forbidden entry. It is said locally that this area is set aside for military fortifications and V-2 launching sites. [redacted] launching trials have been attempted here.

15. Farther south, to the east of the Albanian frontier, the area of Priazen - Diakovica - Kosovo - Skopje - Debar is also mentioned [redacted] and the underground installations there are believed to be for rocket release ramps.

16. [redacted] mentioned the manufacture of V-2 projectiles at Kragujevac, under the direction of Soviet engineers and German technicians.

17. [redacted] mention has been made of release ramps for weapons described as V-4, and V-5. In September a Yugoslav-Russian

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Commission is said to have inspected the Priaren-Skolpje area to examine the construction of certain underground installations believed to have been airfields. There are a large number of special tunnel-like constructions which have been suggested as possible release ramps for V-weapons. The missiles are said to be electrically controlled and to have pin-point accuracy at 1,500 - 2,000 km. (sic). The underground installations at Bocche di Cattaro are also referred to as constructed for V-4 and V-5. Yugoslav Air Force personnel in the district have stated that they are fired electrically.

18. Finally Leskovac in Southern Serbia is mentioned as a site for launching platforms for V-2's. They are reported as being built by specialist German workmen under the direction of Russian technicians.

German prisoners of war have rebuilt the houses and repaired the aerodrome. Many German and Russian civilians work in the district, which appears to be of special importance. Inhabitants are prohibited from this zone and large quantities of unknown material are unloaded there.

#### 19. CONCLUSION

The above summary is far from conclusive. It illustrates in fact how little we know of what is going on in Yugoslavia.

Nevertheless there is sufficient confirmation to justify the suspicion that there are certain projects going forward in Yugoslavia.

The installations reported on the Dalmatian and Albanian coasts may link up with old reports of V-weapon activity on the Bulgarian/Greek frontier, in Germany east of Berlin, on the Baltic and near Finland to suggest part of an outer line of fortifications. At present very little of this information is really firm. Whether the recruitment of German specialists can be associated with these reported activities remains to be seen.

20th January 1947.

SKETCH MAP SHOWING PLACES  
MENTIONED IN THIS REPORT.



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